

The Blessed Life

Matthew 5:1-3

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 *Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*

12 *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

1. The Beatitudes Describe the Counter-Cultural Perspective of a Follower of God

2. The Beatitudes Describe the Disposition of a Follower of God

3. Following God Begins By Acknowledging Our Spiritual Poverty

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." -Matthew 5:3

"For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" -Isaiah 57:15

"It means seeing that you are deeply in debt before God, and you have no ability to even begin to redeem yourself. God's free generosity to you, at infinite cost to him, was the only thing that saved you." -Tim Keller

Step 1: Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule." -The Message